



Contact: Erny Zah
Director of Communications

Cell: (928) 380-0771

navajonationpress@navajo-nsn.gov

For Immediate Release
October 1, 2012

Navajo President Shelly Signs FY 2013 Budget

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly signed the 2013 Navajo Nation comprehensive budget while exercising his line item veto authority on Friday.

“It is important that we have a budget in place as we begin the new fiscal year. I’m thankful for everyone’s hard work in getting this budget through even though I used my line item veto authority. We have to maintain fiscal responsibility and remember that we work for the Navajo people,” President Shelly said.

The new fiscal year begins today for the Navajo Nation.

President Shelly line item vetoed two portions of the budget passed by the Navajo Nation Council.

“I will exercise my line-item veto authority to line-item veto the 2% adjustment made to the Navajo Nation Permanent Trust Fund, and \$1,396,076 supplement to Navajo Area Agency on Aging Program from the Undesignated, Unreserved Fund Balance,” President Shelly wrote in the letter to Navajo Council Speaker Johnny Naize.

President Shelly wrote that the Navajo Council didn’t have the expressed authority to amend the set aside funds from 12 percent to two percent.

“Although ‘amending’ tends to be utilized for permanent change in legislation jargon, it is not clear if amending refers to any modification, which would include adjusting the 12% or waving the set aside in its entirety. Without an identified source of authority to waive or adjust the established percentage, its expected the Council does not have the authority to reduce the 12% contribution established in 12 N.N.C. § 901,” President Shelly continued.

President Shelly also line item vetoed \$1.39 million in funding for the Navajo Area Agency on Aging because fiscal requests from the UUFB can’t allow mixing of reoccurring and non-reoccurring expenditures.

President Shelly also wrote that the “majority of the Conditions of Appropriation (“COA”) are unrealistic” because some lack funding, limited time allotment and participation from the Navajo Nation Council.

President Shelly also commented about unjustified raises for legislative district assistants proposed by the Navajo Nation Council by stating that the Executive Branch has endured criticism from oversight committees and Council about staff salaries being unjustified.

In addition, with the Executive Branch facing nearly 30 lay offs with the 2013 budget, “it is disappointing the Legislative Branch advocates such stringent personnel criticism on the Executive and Judicial employees but eagerly gave Legislative district staff an unprecedented raise without proper evaluation and justification.”

###